Serve One Another

(1 Peter 4:10-11)

In connection with our theme of "Heaven Bound," this morning we want to begin a series of lessons about being "Heaven Bound Together." Throughout the New Testament we learn that God doesn't want Christians to be on an island. God doesn't want His people to travel to heaven with no regard for others. Instead, He wants His people to help one another.

Disciples have a responsibility to serve one another, like Christ served us (Mark 10:45). Jesus was a servant first, and He has called us to be servants as well!

How do we do that? How do we effectively serve one another as we travel to heaven together?

I. Develop the <u>mind</u> of a servant.

- A. Be <u>humble</u> (Philippians 2:3-5).
- B. <u>Think</u> about others (Philippians 2:4-5).
 - 1. Jesus did this in John 13:1-17.
 - 2. We have to consciously think about the needs of others.
- C. <u>Know</u> who you are.
 - 1. Jesus knew this (John 13:13).
 - 2. He knew that washing feet would not diminish Him or make Him any less God's Son.
- D. Think about how <u>God</u> defines <u>greatness</u>.
 - 1. The path to greatness is being a servant (Luke 22:24-27).
 - 2. This was a radical concept in the time of the apostles, and it is radical in our time today!

II. Develop the <u>like</u> of a servant.

- A. Get your hands <u>dirty</u>.
 - 1. Jesus did this (John 13:5).
 - 2. How much more should we be willing to do this?
- B. Be eager to use your **<u>gifts</u>**.
 - 1. Every disciple in the kingdom has one (1 Peter 4:10-11).
 - 2. Every gift is equally important and needs to be utilized.
- C. Sacrifice for others (Philippians 2:6-8).
 - 1. Our <u>homes</u> (1 Peter 4:9)
 - 2. Our time.
 - 3. Our <u>money</u> (Acts 4:32-37).
- D. Work with others in **peace** (Galatians 5:13-15; Ephesians 4:1-3).
 - 1. Be humble. Be patient. Be gentle.
 - 2. Be willing to apologize, forgive, and put the best interest of God's work first.
- E. Always give God the **glory** (1 Corinthians 10:31; 1 Peter 4:11).

Conclusion: Jesus didn't just call us to serve, but He <u>blazed</u> the trail (Mark 10:45).

- Shawn Jeffries